(e) by when beautification and afforestation is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An interior decoration and a landscaping consultant have been appointed to advise on interior decoration and landscaping at this airport. A committee of officers has also been formed to interact with the consultants and to finalise the schemes.

(c) and (d) There is a budget provision of Rs. 10 lacs in current financial year 2004-05 for these works.

(e) The above stated works are likely to be completed by March, 2005.

Concessional schemes of Indian Airlines

238. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has attracted more passengers after the announcement of concessional fare schemes of travel between various cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last two months;

(c) whether Indian Airlines has any proposal to announce more such schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what other commercial strategies do Indian Airlines have to get better seat occupation in its planes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has carried approximately 4900 more passengers per day in the months of April and May, 2004. The system seat factor during April 04 and May 04 was 61.8% and 67.5% respectively as compared to 55.7% and 60.0% during corresponding months of the previous year 2003-04.

(c) to (e) Indian Airlines constantly endeavours to upgrade and add value to the product offered to the passengers. In order to remain competitive Indian Airlines introduces market driven schemes taking into account factors like seasonality, supply and demand equation etc. Based

on the above factors, which are highly dynamic in nature, Indian Airlines launches short term promotion schemes from time to time.

International airport status to Nagpur Airport

†239. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to accord international airport status to Nagpur Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The State Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal to develop Nagpur Airport as a Multi-Modal International Hub Airport for passengers and cargo.

(c) In response to the proposal, Ministry of Civil Aviation has advised Government of Maharashtra to conduct a due diligence of Airport infrastructure at Nagpur and prepare a Road map for further activities to be undertaken.

Expansion and upgradation of air strips in Uttaranchal

†240. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of air strips in Uttaranchal and the number out of them, being used for regular flights;

(b) whether the State Government has sought assistance from the Central Government for their expansion and upgradation; and

(c) if so, the details of the assistance being provided by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are five airstrips/airports in the State of Uttaranchal; out of which three belong to State Government. Only Dehradun Airport is being used for scheduled flights.

(b) Yes, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.